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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/694,860	10/29/2003	Kenneth A. Thomas	84820-4402 ADB	5712

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EXAMINER

SELLMAN, CACHET I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1762

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/15/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/694,860

Applicant(s)

THOMAS, KENNETH A.

Examiner

Cachet I. Sellman

Art Unit

1762

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 March 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10 and 12-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 12-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10 and 24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgement is made of the amendment filed by the applicant on 3/14/2006, in which claim 1 was amended and claim 24 was added. Claims 1-8, 10 and 24 are currently pending in U.S. Application Serial No. 10/694,860.

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 3/14/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In regards to Miekka et al., the applicant argues that this reference does not teach the use of a laminating adhesive. The applicant points out that Meikka et al. uses a pressure sensitive adhesive and not a laminating adhesive. However the applicant states that its laminating adhesive differs because it is "used to form a dry, mature bond with the base film to provide a receiving layer for the hot melt adhesive." It is the Examiner's position that the pressure sensitive adhesive (which is not necessarily a hot melt adhesive) of Meikka et al. that is applied prior to the hot melt adhesive acts as the laminating adhesive because the pressure sensitive adhesive is dried using an evaporator to remove the solvent (providing a dry layer) to provide a receiving layer for the hot melt adhesive (DL layer).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. Claim 1 recites the limitation "on top of the first hot melt adhesive" in lines 14-15. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1-8, 10 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Miekka et al. (US 6540865) in view of Xie et al. (US 6503620) and Ugolick et al. (US 5993961) or in further view of Piancente et al. (US 5178912).

Miekka et al. discloses a method for forming a tape comprising: providing a base material having a first surface and a second surface; applying a first layer of a laminating pressure-sensitive adhesive (PSA layer) to cover the first surface of the base material; drying the PSA layer to provide a dry layer; applying a second layer of a melted hot melt adhesive (detackified layer, or DL) on top of the first layer; cooling the second layer to form a solidified layer of hot melt adhesive; forming the tape into a tape width by cutting; and winding the tape into a roll (col. 7, lines 50-57; col. 8, lines 49-51; col. 10, lines 5-7; col. 11, lines 43-62). Miekka et al. also teaches "it may be desirable

to tint the DL to avoid having to use a tinted second substrate, or to avoid having to tint the PSA layer as the use of tint in the PSA layer may adversely affect its adhesive properties" (col. 32, lines 34-37). The Examiner notes that while Miekka et al. teaches away from the use of tint, or coloring agent, in the first PSA layer, the reference nonetheless teaches that it is known to use coloring agent in the PSA layer. Alternatively, it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to have provided coloring agent in the PSA layer upon seeing the teachings of Miekka et al. with the expected loss of adhesive properties of the PSA layer.

Miekka et al. teaches that the substrate may be in the form of any material suitable to act as a carrier for the construction, and preferred substrates include flexible materials that are sheet stock or roll or web stock (col. 7, lines 28-32). Miekka et al. lacks a specific teaching of applying its adhesive to a polymeric film. Xie et al. is cited for its similar teachings of a facestock material provided with two adhesive layers thereon to form a multilayer PSA construction. Xie et al. provides a list of exemplary facestock materials that are suitable flexible materials to form a construction with adhesives applied thereon, including a number of polymeric materials (col. 13, lines 20-43). It would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art, having seen the references of Miekka et al. and Xie et al. in combination, to have used a polymeric material as the base substrate in the method of Miekka et al. with the expectation of successful results since Miekka et al. generally discloses use of conventional flexible materials and is not limiting.

As to the limitation requiring “using a mixer to mix a laminating adhesive with a colouring agent to form a mixture; and transferring the mixture directly from the mixer to a roller and simultaneously using the roller to apply the mixture to the first surface of the base film so as to form a first layer covering the first surface of the base film”, the Examiner notes that Miekka et al. teaches that its laminating adhesive layer may be applied by a roller coating in col. 9, lines 35-37. While Miekka et al. lacks a teaching of mixing the coloring agent with its PSA material in a mixer, it would have been well within the skill of an ordinary artisan to have used a mixer to mix the coloring agent and PSA material prior to application in order to ensure that the PSA layer that is applied is homogeneously colored. Further, Miekka et al. lacks a specific teaching of transferring the mixture directly from the mixer to a roller and simultaneously using the roller to apply the mixture. However, the Examiner notes that it is well known in the art to simultaneously transfer a coating material directly from a mixer to the application device (such as a roller applicator) in a web coating process in order for the process to run continuously on the indefinite web substrate, thus running efficiently and effectively and not being periodically stopped as in batch operations. Alternatively, Piacente et al. is cited for its teaching of mixing colored decorative particles 13 and a resin 14 in a mixer 15, and then transferring the mixture to a roller applicator while simultaneously coating a web substrate (see Figure 1). It would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to have simultaneously transferred a colored PSA mixture from a mixer to a roller applicator in the process of Miekka et al., particularly upon seeing the prior art of

Piacente et al., with the expectation of improved efficiency and maintaining a continuous web coating process.

With respect to claim 2, Miekka et al. teaches that the laminate construction may be split lengthwise to form two or more different rolls (col. 8, lines 49-54). It would have been obvious to have wound the tapes into individual supply packages in order to sell them commercially.

As to claim 3, Xie et al. teaches that the polymeric base film may be polyethylene terephthalate in col. 15, lines 41-47.

As to claims 4-5 and 7, Miekka et al. teaches that its construction is then laminated to a second substrate which may be paper (col. 20, lines 21-26 and col. 21). It is the Examiner's position that the shape and end use of Miekka et al.'s construction is a matter of design choice that would be determined by one having ordinary skill in the art.

As to claim 6, Miekka et al. is silent with regard to the thickness of the base film. It would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to have determined the optimum base film thickness through routine experimentation depending upon the desired end use of the product, in the absence of a showing of criticality.

As to claim 8, Miekka et al. teaches that the first adhesive (PSA) layer may be applied as a liquid including solvent (col. 11, lines 53-62).

As to claim 10, Miekka et al. teaches bonding the hot melt adhesive to a second substrate by heating the adhesive in col. 21, lines 10-18.

As to claim 11, Miekka et al. teaches that the base film preferably has a release material thereon (col. 7, lines 33-35), and the hot melt (DL) adhesive layer may be pressure-sensitive (col. 8, lines 55-58).

As to claim 24, Miekka et al. does not teach the use of a release coating on the second surface of its base film. However Miekka et al. teaches in col. 8, lines 26-32, "Adhesive interference or blocking between the DL and an adjacent backside surface of the release liner is not desired because it results in the release liner being pulled away from the PSA layer during the removal or separation operation, thereby rendering the prelaminate PSA construction useless." The Examiner notes that it is a well known step in the adhesive laminate/tape manufacturing art to apply a release coating to the bottom surface of a base film to avoid sticking on itself when the product is wound and unwound. Ugolick et al. teaches in its discussion of conventional PSA constructions: "the release surface may be provided ... on the backside of the facestock 12 in an application where the construction is intended to be rolled upon itself such as to produce an adhesive tape" (col. 3, lines 6-10). It is the Examiner's position that it would have been obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to have applied a release coating to the second surface of the base film upon seeing the teaching in Miekka et al. that adhesion between the DL and an adjacent backside surface of the release liner is undesirable, and since it is well known to apply a release coating to the second surface of a film when rolling as taught by Ugolick et al. Further, one would expect successful results because both references are similarly directed to the manufacture of adhesive laminate constructions.

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cachet I. Sellman whose telephone number is 571-272-0691. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 7:00 - 4:30pm.

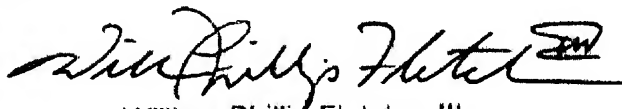
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Timothy Meeks can be reached on 571-272-1423. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Cachet I Sellman
Examiner
Art Unit 1762

cis

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Phillip Fletcher III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small "III" at the end.

William Phillip Fletcher III
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1762